

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305283
ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305283

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BPRO, JO, US

SUBJECT: MORE ON SHARIF NASSER AFFAIR

REF:

1. ON 12/20, ABE MOSES OF CHASE CALLED TO REPORT LATEST STATE OF PLAY ON SHARIF NASSER AFFAIR. MOSES HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CROWN PRINCE AIDE DE CAMP SHEHAB NADI, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY GOING TO RAISE MATTER WITH CROWN PRINCE. ON 12/13, SHEHAB NADI TOLD MOSES THAT JACK O'CONNELL WOULD BE HANDLING MATTER. WHEN MOSES CONTACTED O'CONNELL, LATTER INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN TASKED WITH NO SUCH RESPONSIBILITY. O'CONNELL THEN CONSULTED SHEHAB NADI, WHO SAID WAEL ZURUB WOULD REPRESENT SHARIF NASSER IN THIS MATTER, BUT MIGHT CONSULT O'CONNELL IN PROCESS.

2. MOSES INDICATED THAT HIS CLIENT IS DISCOURAGED WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE RUN AROUND, AND IS READY TO HIRE LAWYER AND INITIATE LEGAL ACTION IN JORDAN AGAINST SHARIF NASSER
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PAGE 02 STATE 305283

IF THERE IS NO FORWARD MOVEMENT ON SETTling CLAIMS BY JANUARY 5.

3. JACK O'CONNELL DROPPED BY NEA/ARN ON 12/21 WHICH GAVE US CHANCE TO RAISE ISSUE WITH HIM IN EFFORT TO CONFIRM

SUBSTANCE OF MOSES REMARKS. O'CONNELL HAS BEEN ADVISED

BY SOME KANSAS CITY LAWYERS WHO HAVE CHECKED INTO MERITS OF CASE THAT WHOLE DEAL WAS SHADY AT OUTSET, AND LOWRY HAS LITTLE GROUND TO STAND ON. O'CONNELL DID HOWEVER EXPRESS CONCERN THAT MOSES MIGHT BE TRYING TO USE HIS CONTACTS IN THE USG AS LEVERAGE AGAINST SHARIF NASSER. O'CONNELL CAUTIONED NEA/ARN AND EMBASSY AGAINST GETTING INVOLVED IN MATTER ON BEHALF OF MOSES/CHASE/LOWRY OR WHOMEVER. WE TOLD HIM IT WAS A MISTAKE TO THINK WE OR EMBASSY WERE GETTING INVOLVED. WE SIMPLY TOOK AN INTEREST IN MATTERS WHICH COULD AFFECT ROYAL FAMILY, JORDANIAN IMAGE, ETC. O'CONNELL THINKS WE SHOULD LET EVENTS TAKE THEIR OWN COURSE, I.E., LET LOWRY BRING SUIT IN JORDANIAN COURTS, WHICH IN O'CONNELL'S VIEW, LOWRY WILL LOSE.

4. NEA/ARN HAS NO DESIRE TO GET CAUGHT IN MIDDLE OF THIS BUT WILL CONTINUE TO PASS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BOTH MOSES AND O'CONNELL ON TO EMBASSY FOR BACKGROUND AND ANY COMMENT IT SEES FIT. VANCE

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